

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Minoru MATSUSHITA et al. Group Art Unit : 3739
Serial No : 09/848,301 Examiner : LEUBECKER, J. P.
Filed : May 4, 2001
For : FLEXIBLE TUBE FOR AN ENDOSCOPE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,

Applicants hereby submit a copy of a communication from the German Patent Office mailed on February 2, 2004, along with an English language translation thereof, with regard to counterpart German Patent Application No. DE 101 22 203, in which the German Patent Examiner cited the following document:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 2-283346, which was published on November 20, 1990, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the German Patent Examiner applying German rules to the German Patent Application are set forth in the communication from the German Patent Office.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the Japanese document. A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

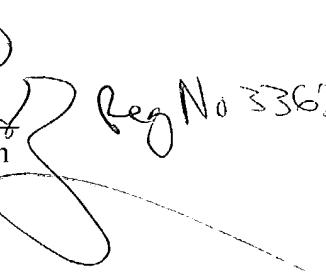
Further, Applicants note that since this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance, Applicants have included herewith a check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p). However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any necessary additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Applicants furthermore certify that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Minoru MATSUSHITA et al.


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March 29, 2004
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